

50% of female patients with UTI symptoms choose phone treatment in pilot of DoD/VA Dysuria Guideline

Why we undertook this Initiative –

In a review of 1700 consecutive female patients with UTI symptoms at our MTF, all were seen in a clinic visit (many in the ED), 80% had at least one lab test and >90% received antibiotics for 7-10 days.

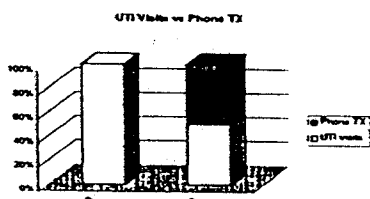
We identified a guideline from Group Health of Puget Sound that reduces visits, unnecessary lab testing and the duration of antibiotics to 3-days with equal effectiveness and improved patient satisfaction with care. This guideline was subsequently adapted for the DoD/VA and we were offered an opportunity to pilot test this DoD/VA guideline on the treatment of uncomplicated dysuria in women.

What we did –

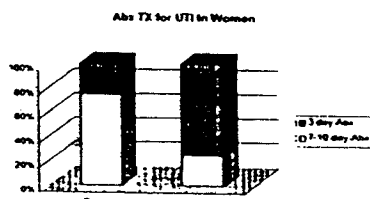
We instituted nursing protocol driven treatment of women between the ages of 18 to 55 with UTI symptoms who met exclusion criteria and chose telephone treatment versus a clinic visit.

What happened –

In the first 3 months of guideline implementation 150 of 300 patients elected telephone treatment rather than a visit.



The ratio of antibiotic duration flipped to 75% being 3-day duration vice 7-10 days. Patient satisfaction with nurse protocol treatment was high and no increase in recurrence rates of



UTI was observed. The projected annual impact at our command is estimated to be:

	Costs/Harm	Benefits
Visits	Nurse Triage @ \$3,600	600 less clinic visits @ \$27,000
Capacity	None	163 new prime enrollees
Lab and Pharmacy	None	300 fewer UAs & UCs @ \$11,250
Complications	None	48 less vaginitis 30 less rash
Patient Satisfaction		↑ choice of care ↑ access to care

Tips and Lessons Learned –

- Clinician "buy-in" and leadership in the practice changes is essential.
- A motivated, committed clinician champion was a key success factor.
- We used clinic nurses to do the phone protocol treatment because our clinicians already had a respectful trusting relationship with these individuals.

Credit for this initiative goes to –

Naval Hospital Pensacola specifically CAPT Bob Hoyt MC, CDR Rick Stoerman MC, LCDR Sally Dupre NC and LT Charlotte Semple NC

Resources available for other MTFs –

The DoD/VA Dysuria Guideline CD-ROM given to all optimization champions contains all necessary implementation materials. These materials are also available on the BUMED Intranet site.

For Additional Information Contact –

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